

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
 - associating a command with an event at a first device;
 - communicating the command to a second device when the event occurs;
 - causing an action at the second device depending on the command, the action comprising at least one of:
 - disabling an alert mechanism of the second device;
 - enabling the alert mechanism of the second device; and
 - modifying a setting of the alert mechanism of the second device;and
if the alert mechanism of the second device is enabled, activating the alert mechanism of the second device in response to an alert being required.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein activating the alert mechanism of the second device in response to the alert being required further comprises activating the alert mechanism in response to:
 - a specific internal event, detected by the second device;
 - a signal requesting the alert, sent from a third device to the second device;and
the signal requesting the alert, sent from the first device to the second device.



1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein:

2 the event is a scheduled event on a stored schedule that is accessible by
3 the first device; and

4 associating the command with the event further comprises associating the
5 command with the scheduled event.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein determining when the event has occurred further
2 comprises:

3 determining a clock time from a clock;
4 accessing the stored schedule; and
5 determining from the stored schedule whether the scheduled event is
6 associated with the clock time.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein associating the command with the event further
2 comprises constructing the command depending on one or more of the clock time
3 and the scheduled event.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein causing the action at the second device further
2 comprises sending a signal requesting the alert to the second device.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein:

2 the first device is a personal digital assistant;

3 the second device is a cellular telephone;



4 the alert mechanism of the second device comprises a ringer of the cellular
5 telephone;

6 disabling the alert mechanism of the second device comprises muting the
7 ringer of the cellular telephone; and

8 communicating the command comprises transmitting the command from
9 the personal digital assistant to the cellular telephone, over a wireless network.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating with the second device further
2 comprises broadcasting a message comprising the command by the first device.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating with the second device further
2 comprises:

3 sending a polling message from the second device to the first device;

4 receiving the polling message at the first device; and

5 in response to the polling message, receiving a message comprising the
6 command from the first device.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating with the second device further
2 comprises:

3 Sending a request message from the second device to the first device in
4 response to an alert being required; and

5 Receiving a message comprising the command from the first device at the
6 second device in response to the request message.



1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the setting of the alert mechanism
2 comprises setting the intensity of the alert mechanism of the second device to a
3 specific intensity level including a level corresponding to an imperceptible
4 intensity.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the alert mechanism includes an audible alert,
2 the intensity level of the audible alert is the volume of the audible alert, and the
3 level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity level is a mute level.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the alert mechanism includes an illuminating
2 alert, the intensity level of the illuminating alert is the brightness of the
3 illuminating alert, and the level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity level
4 is darkness.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the setting of the alert mechanism
2 comprises selecting one or more of a plurality of alternative modes of the alert
3 mechanism of the second device.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein selecting one or more of the plurality of
2 alternative modes further comprises selecting one or more of:
3 an audible alert mode;
4 a tactile vibration alert mode; and
5 an illuminating alert mode.

1 16. An apparatus comprising:

2 a first device to associate a command with an event and to transmit a
3 message comprising the command;

4 a second device to receive the message and to perform an action
5 depending on the command; and

6 an alert mechanism of the second device with one or more of

7 a capability to be enabled in response to the command;

8 a capability to be disabled in response to the command; and

9 a setting, modifiable in response to the command,

10 wherein the alert mechanism, if the alert mechanism is enabled, is capable of
11 being activated in response to an alert being required.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the alert mechanism of the second device may

2 be activated, if the alert mechanism is enabled, in response to one or more of:

3 a specific event detected by the second device;

4 a signal requesting activation of the alert mechanism, sent from a third
5 device; and

6 the signal requesting activation of the alert mechanism, sent from the first
7 device.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:

2 a storage component accessible by the first device, to store a schedule,

3 wherein the event further comprises a scheduled event stored in the schedule; and



4 a clock to provide a clock time to one or more of the first device and the
5 second device.

1 19. The alert mechanism of claim 16 wherein the setting comprises an adjustable
2 intensity level that may be set to one of many specific levels including an
3 imperceptible level;

1 20. The alert mechanism of claim 19 wherein the alert mechanism comprises an
2 audible alert, the intensity level of the alert mechanism is the volume of the
3 audible alert, and the level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity level is a
4 mute level.

1 21. The alert mechanism of claim 19 wherein the alert mechanism comprises an
2 illuminating alert, the intensity level of the alert mechanism is the brightness of
3 the illuminating alert, and the level corresponding to an imperceptible intensity
4 level is darkness.

1 22. The alert mechanism of claim 16 wherein the setting comprises a selection of one
2 or more of a plurality of alternative modes of the alert mechanism.

1 23. The alert mechanism of claim 22 wherein the selection of one or more of the
2 plurality of alternative modes further comprises the selection of one or more of:
3 an audible alert mode;



4 a tactile alert mode; and
5 an illuminating alert mode.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first device and the second device are
2 physically integrated into a single unit.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein:
2 the first device is a personal digital assistant;
3 the second device is a cellular telephone;
4 the alert mechanism is a ringer of the cellular telephone.

1 26. A machine accessible medium on which is stored data that when accessed by a
2 machine causes it to perform the method of claim 1.

1 27. A machine accessible medium on which is stored data that when accessed by a
2 machine causes it to perform the method of claim 5.

1 28. A machine accessible medium on which is stored data that when accessed by a
2 machine causes it to perform the method of claim 7.